



Getting a jump on **FIRE** protection

Hayes demonstrates the velocity of the Fire Caddy system, a portable firefighting system that can be used to control — or extinguish — Class A or Class B fires on the farm.

In rural areas, fire can be a major concern. Even if a small fire gets out of hand, help is often too far away to stop it before major damage occurs.

With this in mind, a Calgary company has developed a portable firefighting system that can be used to control — or even stop — a fire until help arrives.

The Fire Caddy system comes in 2 formats — the 12-volt portable fire pump, called Fire Caddy DC, and a gasoline-powered Fire Caddy system.

“I had zero fire background when I thought of this idea,”

says Just-In Case Fire Ltd. president Mark Hayes. “We had a small fire at my home when a candle fell over and started the dining room table on fire. My son Justin, who was 3 years old at the time, woke me up. I was able to simply blow out the fire, but I thought, if it went 10 more minutes, well ...”

Although the Fire Caddy system took about 5 years to develop, it was quickly evident to Hayes the system would work great on farms, ranches and acreages. With a farming background himself, he realized the

applications on farms would be numerous.

“I remember seeing and hearing about round bales burning, about barns and sheds starting on fire, grass fires and equipment fires,” he says. “The reality is, with volunteer fire departments, the response time in rural Alberta is not there to save buildings and structures. And that’s solely because of the distances between fire departments and the fires themselves.”

The Fire Caddy gasoline-powered system (also available in a diesel version), equipped

Just-In Case Fire Ltd. president Mark Hayes says the Fire Caddy DC system delivers 6 gpm at 110 psi, with a maximum pressure of 175 psi and a maximum flow rate of 8.2 gpm.

with a 5.5-hp motor, generates 70 psi of pressure and delivers over 48 liters (12 U.S. gallons) of water per minute. The Fire Caddy DC system delivers 6 gpm at 110 psi, with a maximum pressure of 175 psi and a maximum flow rate of 8.2 gpm.

Both versions of the Fire Caddy system, effective on all Class A and Class B fires, can be attached to any water source — a horse trough, pond, slough,



lake, creek, or to a tank in the back of a truck or on a trailer. The pumps run on a 5.5-hp motor, and both systems come with up to 300' of hose as well as 20' of suction hose. As well,



The Fire Caddy gasoline version runs on a 5.5-hp motor, and comes equipped with 300' of hose, 20' of suction hose and 5 gallons of Flame Out, a foam-based, biodegradable fire retardant.

both systems come equipped with a 5-gal. container of Flame Out, a foam-based, biodegrad-

able fire retardant that reduces the amount of water needed to fight fires.



The system's pressure gauge tells the operator if the water pump is running the way it should.

"With the firefighting foam added to the water, you have the ability to extinguish massive amounts of fire from a distance," says Hayes. "With dry chemical fire extinguishers, you have to get within 5' from a fire. With our systems, you can stand back as far as 35' and still fight the fire effectively.

"So not only do you have a longer time to fight fire, you can do it from a further distance. For example, if you have a lightning strike to the roof of your house, you can't get to that fire with a dry chemical extinguisher without getting a ladder and climbing on your roof. With the Fire Caddy, you pull the hose out, aim at the fire and put it out from the ground."

Bruce Simpson, of Simpson On Fire, northern distributor of the Fire Caddy systems, says fire

suppression on farms in the north is just as challenging as those in the south. And with even greater distances between rural fire departments and farms, getting a fire under control quickly can be key to saving outbuildings, houses, crops and livestock.

"By the time a fire department gets out there, things are quite often out of control," says Simpson. "With these systems set up in a defensive mode, they can protect outbuildings and houses if a wildfire comes through the area."

According to Hayes, the greatest advantage with the gasoline fire caddy is the extinguishing ability and the time allowed to extinguish the fire. "You can suppress or contain a large fire until help arrives," he says. "You can buy yourself time and mitigate the damage that could occur until the fire department comes."

For more information on the Fire Caddy systems or for a demonstration, in southern Alberta contact 403-243-9728, in northern Alberta contact 780-405-5600. Or visit the Just-In Case Fire Ltd. web site at www.justincasefire.com. 